

## Army Puts Emphasis On Air-Borne Troops In Training For 'Atomic Age'

By ELTON C. FAY  
AP Newsfeatures

Washington—Swift striking, heavily armed divisions of air-borne troops are being provided for in atomic age defense plans.

Bulwarking regular Army airborne divisions will be an "M-Day" force of Organized Reserve and National Guard airborne divisions.

Maj. Gen. Floyd L. Parks, commander of the First Airborne Army in World War II, says: "The war demonstrated the effectiveness of these airborne divisions, and our peace-time structure is recognizing this fact."

Parks, now chief of the Army's public relations division, says emphasis on flying

armies is pointed up by the fact that, of two effective, divisions now in the United States, one is airborne—the 82nd at Fort Bragg, N. C.

War Department strategists have contended that airborne troops would be of paramount importance should the United States be subjected to a sudden attack by long range rocket missiles, airplanes and air-borne troops. They would be needed to strike at the bases from which such attacks are launched as well as to help to defend and maintain order in the attack areas of the United States.

**Needed for Arctic**  
Some generals contend, after observing tests on men and equipment in Army ground forces tests in Alaska, that



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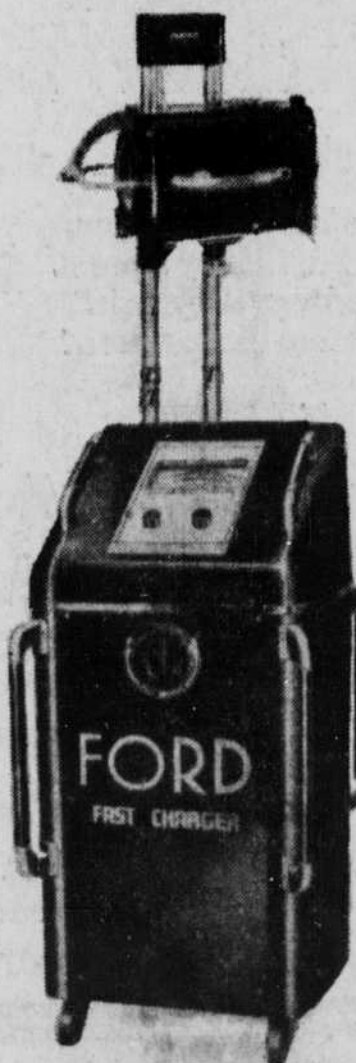
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RETURNING HOME from Pueblo, Colo., are Mrs. Ann Kovac of Detroit, Mich., and her 18-month-old daughter, Ann, a "blue baby." Mother and child were passengers on an airliner flying from Kansas City to Los Angeles when the little girl became ill. The plane made an emergency landing at Pueblo and the tot was rushed to a hospital. (International)

only an airborne army could operate in the sub-zero cold of the Arctic. The temperature solidifies lubricants, makes the starting of gasoline engines difficult and narrows the physical business of keeping alive, with no energy left for fighting or moving.

While details of plans for the National Guard are not yet ready, five Organized Reserve airborne divisions have been authorized. Two—the 100th and 80th—already are activated.

The 100th, redesignated from the "Century" infantry division which fought in the Rhineland and Central Europe in World War II, has its headquarters at Louisville, Ky. The 80th, the "Blue Ridge" infantry division, which fought in Europe in both wars, is based at Richmond, Va.

### Some Units Ready

Some units of the three remaining divisions also have been activated. One is in the 1st Army Area, embracing the northeastern states. It will be designated as the 98th Infantry Division, but in event of mobilization will be trained and used as an airborne division, in the 3rd (southeastern states) Army Area, and the 84th, in the 5th (northcentral states) Army Area.

Because former airborne officers and men are so widely scattered, training of airborne reserve divisions will parallel that of reserve infantry outfits—400 hours a year in two-hour weekly home or armory periods, plus two weeks of active duty summer field training. Until Congress approves pending appropriation proposals, home training will be without pay, although pay will be made for field training.

Men assigned to Organized Reserve airborne divisions will be given opportunity to attend courses at the Army's Fort Bragg airborne base as far as facilities will allow.

The regular Army has one other airborne division—the 11th, in Japan—in existence in addition to the 82nd at Fort Bragg, now building up to full authorized strength. The 11th, however, maintains only an organizational form. Its chief duties are those of occupation.

### Five Years Old

The Army organized its first airborne unit as a staff division in the ground forces five years ago, although members of a test platoon had made the first mass parachute jump a year earlier. From this beginning the parachute and glider units which spearheaded some of the major battles in

Europe and the Southwest Pacific developed.

Earlier this year the Army disclosed plans to expand airborne divisions to the size of a regular infantry division of between 16,000 and 18,000 men. Officials said today these plans had been recalled for further study.

As initially organized, an American airborne division contained between 8,000 and 9,000 combat soldiers. However, when the time came to use them in action it was discovered that corps commanders expected an airborne division to hold the same ground assigned to a full strength infantry division.

Therefore it was necessary to attach to the airborne division such components as artillery, light armor and more ground transport. The original plans for expanding the size of the airborne division contemplated including these elements as part of the division, with the equipment to be moved by air along with the personnel.

## Screwball Clubs Flourish In N. Y., Expert Finds

By SAUL PETT

AP Newsfeature Writer

New York, April 12—Some sociologists of the future may try to measure our civilization by the clubs we join. The odds are he'll go nuts.

The current Manhattan telephone directory, alone, lists 3,214 clubs and associations of all types, or approximately one for every 600 residents of one New York City borough. And that doesn't include the organizations too secret, too screwy, too temporary or too small to have a phone.

The person Americans join clubs seem as endless as the list of clubs themselves.

Harold Labow, a New York advertising man, makes it a hobby to collect information on joiners. His favorite is an extinct group, the Farragut club. It's a good commentary on "joinitis."

Word went around town of this new highly exclusive club. Applications were distributed. All candidates were black-balled.

Inferiority complexes were beginning to spring up in high places until the truth came out. The membership of the Farragut club consisted of one man. He held club sessions all alone

every afternoon near the Farragut statue in Madison Square.

The business of each meeting was simply this: the membership sat on a bench, lighted a cigar and thought of all the people invited to join and then black-balled.

Labow has been collecting information on clubs and societies for years. Here are a few, with odd titles or missions:

Skyscraper Club, for men 6 feet, two inches, or more, demanding longer beds in hotel rooms; Blizzard Men of 1888 who will never forget that storm; Tall Story Club; the Pandettes, some New Jersey women who play golf in the snow; Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Inc.; Society for the Prevention of Disparaging Remarks About Brooklyn, recently replaced by the First Families of Brooklyn.

The Moles, subway contractors; Society for the Promotion of Good Will Toward Men; Seafood Eating, Whiskey Drinking and Fist Fighting Society of Greater New York (in the making); Committee to Abolish Inhuman Treatment to Horses in Motion Pictures; Society of Timid Souls, a fraternal of stage-frightened musicians and actors.

We Do Your Excavation Watching for You Society; Wine and Turkey Tasting Society; Collectors of Religion on

Stamps Society; The Plug Shrinkers, for reducing radio commercials; Society for Protection of Animals in North Africa; Dotted Line Club; National Man's Club, whose slogan reads: "for prosperity and defense, abolish all female labor"; Horseless Carriage Club; Society for Prevention of Married Men Posing as Bachelors; Original Order of Zunks—they're stamp collectors; Seraphic Secretaries of America, secretaries to 83 top-flight people.

Society for the Prevention of Calling Sleeping Car Porters George; The Thank God It's Friday Club, started at the University of Missouri; American Grandmas Association; Seven O'Clockers' Club, Philadelphia to New York commuters Electric Railroad Association, just a bunch of guys who like to ride trolleys; Gag Writers Protective Association;

Colonial Brick Club, people looking for historic bricks; International Association of Peaceful Pipe Smokers; Association for Prevention of Taking Off Hats in Elevators; Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels; Fellows of the Belshaws, well known men who once pumped the organ in their boyhood; Bald Head Club of America; Smell Society, to foster good odors and remove bad ones.

Labow says a survey in little Montclair, N. J., once showed 350 clubs there. So they

## Scientific Farm Produces Wonder Plants And Seeds

By ROBERT E. GEIGER  
AP Newsfeature Writer

Beltsville, Md.—The U. S. Department of Agriculture's research farm is a fairyland of scientific wonders for the amateur home gardener.

The things this scientific fairyland has achieved include such 1947 wonders as a new strawberry, called the Suwannee, that has large, brilliant berries growing on disease resistant plants; and a new leaf lettuce, called Slobolt, that was tailor-made by the plant experts for home gardens.

This research farm is only one in many that have developed new food and ornamental plants for the 1947 season.

The Department of Agriculture emphasizes that state agricultural experiment stations and commercial breeders constantly are developing new varieties. A few will grow virtually any place in the United States. Others are suitable under regional conditions.

Dr. Robert M. Salter, chief of

formed a 351st club—to consolidate and merge some of the other 350.

the bureau of plant industry, soils and agricultural engineering, suggests that the time a gardener spends in discussing garden information with his local seedsmen and agricultural officials will pay big dividends.

The Suwannee strawberry, for instance, will outyield the famous Blakemore in many parts of the south experts predict.

The Slobolt lettuce, the department says, "is of special value to home gardeners and commercial growers over much of this country and in the Caribbean sea of South America, as well." It yields a long succession of curly leaves of high quality without shooting to seed.

The hybrids are the "miracle children of science. They are produced by inbreeding two specially tested families of a species for generations. Then, for producing seed, the families are cross-bred. This frequently results in a plant having a super abundance of all the outstanding, valuable characteristics of each family.

Among other new varieties of various crops, recommended by the department, are the Wando, a new garden pea developed in Charleston, S. C., that will resist cold weather; Pan-America, a new tomato variety that combines the appearance and eating qualities of the well-known Marglobe with the disease resistance of a tiny Peruvian tomato, and two new bush lima beans, Fordhook 242 and Early Market.

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